



MONA SHORES OPTIMIST CLUB

presents

Optimist International Essay and Oratorical Contests

ideal for all

Muskegon County Middle and High School Students



Topic:

“Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction”

700-800 Word Essay

Awards:

1st Place - Medallion, \$100, and
Advancement to State Level

2nd Place - Medallion and \$50

3rd Place - Medallion and \$25

Entry Deadline: January 29, 2016

1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners will read
their essays at a club-sponsored luncheon

**NEW! Optimist Oratorical
World Championships**

Win **\$22,500** or more
in scholarships!



Topic:

“How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others”

4 to 5 Minute Speech

Awards:

1st Place - Medallion, \$100, and
Advancement to State Level

2nd Place - Medallion and \$50

3rd Place - Medallion and \$25

Entry Deadline: March 9, 2016

Contest Date: Saturday, March 19, 2016
at Baker College of Muskegon

\$2,500 Scholarship Awards at the State Level

For entry forms and official rules, visit muskegonisd.org/optimist.pdf

Questions? Contact J.P. Ryan, Mona Shores Optimist Club, at (231) 798-7741



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Entry Directions

Essay Contest:

1. Complete the Application (page 4 of this packet)
2. Attach a copy of your birth certificate to your application.
3. Send application and essay to the address below no later than Friday, January 29, 2016
4. You will receive a letter once all entries have been judged

Oratorical Contest:

1. Complete the Application (page 3 of this packet)
2. Attach a copy of your birth certificate to your application.
3. Send application to the address below no later than Wednesday, March 9, 2016
4. Present speech at Baker College of Muskegon on Saturday, March 19, 2016

Send Applications and Essays via interschool or U.S. Mail to:

Attn: Optimist Contests
MAISD
630 Harvey St.
Muskegon, MI 49442

OR via email to manders2@muskegonisd.org

Questions? Contact J.P. Ryan, Mona Shores Optimist Club, at (231) 798-7741

Application for 2015-2016 Optimist International Oratorical Contest

Name _____ M F

Address _____

City _____

State/Country _____ Zip Code _____

Telephone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____

Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Oratorical Contest this school year? Yes No

Contestant Agreement:

I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.

Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Parent or Guardian Permission:

I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.

Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Relationship _____

I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.

Sponsoring Optimist Club Name Mona Shores Optimist Club

Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 17280

Please send application to: Attn: Optimist Contests, MAISD, 630 Harvey St, Muskegon, MI 49442

Topic: "How My Best Brings Out the Best in Others"

Section I — General Rules

1. The Optimist International Oratorical Contest will begin at the Club level, proceed to the Zone level and end with a contest at the District level.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club
3. The official application must be completed by each contestant and submitted to the sponsoring Club's Contest Chair.
4. The District has the right to decide whether to have a combined gender contest or a separate gender contest.
5. No Zone, District Regional or District level contest shall have fewer than 3 or more than 20 contestants competing.
6. Optimist International has the right to edit, publish and record any speech used in any contest without payment to the author.

Section II — Qualifications For Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under the age of 18 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 – September 30). Contestants must be educated in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean. There is no minimum age.
2. A contestant is eligible to enter/compete in only one Optimist Oratorical contest during a contest year.
3. Each contestant shall prepare his or her own speech. The contestant may receive advice in the preparation of the speech and may make minor changes or improvement in the speech at any time.
4. A student who has won a District Oratorical scholarship is not eligible to compete at any level of the Oratorical competition again.
5. All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist International. District winners must provide a copy of the birth certificate or passport with the District entry documentation. A printed copy of the speech must be provided either before or after the speech.

Section III — Contest Rules

1. All contestants must speak on the official topic.
2. A speech may be delivered in a language other than English if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
3. All contestants must state the official topic beginning their speech in order for the timekeeper to record the exact time of the speech. A 3-point penalty is automatically assessed by the timekeeper for failure to state the official topic.
4. Any quotation or copyrighted material used in the speech must be identified verbally during the presentation and in the written copy of the speech with the original author's name. The contestant shall be fully responsible for the use of any quoted material and Optimist International shall assume no responsibility. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
5. The use of props, special costumes or clothing, or the use of prompters will not be permitted. The penalty will be disqualification. Notes and lecterns can be used if the contestant desires.
6. The time allowed will be not under 4 minutes or over 5 minutes. Contestants going over or under will not be cautioned, and will be penalized one point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time. This penalty will be determined by the official timekeeper.
7. Timing will begin immediately after the official topic is expressed. Any salutation to judges, audience, etc., should precede the announcement of the topic. Timing will stop when the contestant finishes.
8. No reference can be made that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. This will result in a deduction of 5 points or a fraction of based on the degree of identification.
9. Contestants shall not be identified by name or sponsoring Clubs until after the last oration has been presented and the judges and timekeeper have left the room.
10. Any protest in the conduct at any level of this contest must be made immediately after the condition is noted. Protests received after the next contestant has been introduced, or in the case of the last contestant, after the judges leave to total the scores, will not be accepted

under any circumstances.

11. The Contest Chairperson will decide all protests in accordance with the official rules. The decision of the Contest Chair is final and no higher appeals will be recognized. In the case of Club contests, the Club Contest Chair has this authority. In the case of Zone and District contests, the final authority is vested in the District Contest Chair. The Zone Chair has the authority to handle protests that may arise during the Zone competition with the District Chair having the final authority.

Section IV — Scoring

Scoring in all Club, Zone and District contests will conform to the following criteria.

1. Poise – appearance and personality: 20 points
2. Content of Speech – subject adherence, theme, content, logic and color: 35 points
3. Delivery & Presentation – voice, volume, pronunciation, gestures, eye contact, sincerity and emphasis: 35 points
4. Overall Effectiveness – appeal, impression, attitude and effect: 10 points.

Section V — Penalties

1. Failure to announce the official topic - 3 points
2. Failure to identify non-original material – disqualification
3. Use of props, etc. – disqualification
4. Time penalties – 1 point for each 15 seconds or fraction of over or under the allotted time
5. Self-identification – 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VI - Awards

1. Club level – medallion
2. Zone level – plaque
3. District Regional level – plaque
4. District – plaque and scholarship
 - A. Each winner of the District level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. In a combined gender contest, there will be two winners awarded \$2,500 each, or three winners awarded scholarships of \$2,500,

\$1,500 and \$1,000 respectively for first, second and third place. In Districts conducting separate gender contests, the first-place boy and girl will receive a scholarship of \$2,500.

- B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - C. Scholarships must be used in a school located in the United States, Caribbean or Canada. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International. D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.
5. Regional/World Championships – Plaque and Scholarship
 - A. Each winner of the Regional/World Championship level contest will receive a scholarship for use at a college, university or trade school only. There will be one winner awarded scholarship of at least \$5,000 at the Regional Level. All winners of the Regional Contests will be eligible to compete in the World Championship Contest with awards for first, second, and third place of \$15,000, \$10,000, and \$5,000 respectively.
 - B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - C. Scholarships must be used in a school located in the United States, Caribbean or Canada. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information contact:

Contact Person: J.P. Ryan, Mona Shores Optimist Club

Contact Address: 1180 Brookwood Dr,
Muskegon, MI 49442

Contact Phone or email: (231) 798-7741

Application for 2015-2016 Optimist International Essay Contest

Name _____ M F
Address _____
City _____
State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____
Telephone (_____) _____
E-mail _____
Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ Age _____
Have you participated in any other Optimist Club's Essay Contest this school year? Yes No
Contestant Agreement:
I have studied the rules of the contest, and I will be bound by all of the requirements.
Contestant's Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____

Parent or Guardian Permission:
I give my permission for my child/ward to participate in this contest.
Signature _____ Date _____ / _____ / _____
Relationship _____
I, _____ grant the Optimist Club/International my permission to use a picture of my son/daughter _____ for their public relations purposes. Optimist Club/International may use the photo in any publication they see fit.
Sponsoring Optimist Club Name Mona Shores Optimist Club
Sponsoring Optimist Club Number 17280

Please send application to: Attn: Optimist Contests, MAISD, 630 Harvey St, Muskegon MI 49442

Official Topic:
"Lead by Example: Reality or Fiction"

Essay Contest Rules

Each contestant must be given a copy of the rules and complete the entry form. The rules contain information about the contest, judging and awards.

Section I - General Rules

1. The Optimist International Essay contest is divided into two levels of competition: Club and District.
2. Contestants must enter through a local Optimist Club, or an At-Large contest if a local club is not available. An At-large student may not have competed in an Optimist International or District contest in the same year.
3. Contestants must compose an original essay with limited guidance from others. Webster's dictionary defines an essay as an analytic or interpretative literary composition. Works of fiction or poetry will not be accepted.
4. All District-level competitions must have a minimum of 3 contestants participating.
5. Optimist International will have the right to edit, publish or otherwise duplicate any essay entered into the contest without payment to the author.

Section II - Qualifications for Contestants

1. The contest is open to students under age 18 as of October 1st of the current Optimist International Contest year (October 1 – September 30). Students must enter in the District in which they reside. U.S. students attending school on military installations outside the U.S. are eligible to enter in their last home of record.
2. Contestants are eligible for only one Club's contest *during any given year.*

3. No student who has previously won a District Optimist Essay contest scholarship will be eligible to compete at any level of the competition again.
4. All contestants at each level of the contest must show proof of age before competing. Optimist Clubs may require a copy of birth certificate or passport before participating if offering a Club scholarship separate from Optimist International. District winners must provide a copy of birth certificate or passport with the District entry documentation..

Section III - Contest Rules

1. Participants must write on the official topic.
2. Each entry must begin with a title page containing: the official topic, number of words, writer's name, address, phone number, name of school and date of birth.
3. At the top of page 1 should be the official topic and the number of words (penalty of 2 points for lack of topic and 5 points for failure to identify the total number of words correctly).
4. Essays must be typewritten and double-spaced. (Deduction of 5 points)
5. Essays must contain at least 700 words but no more than 800 words. Every word of the essay is counted. This does not include the title, bibliography or footnotes. Hyphenated words count as 1 word (Deduction of 5 points for each 25 words over/under limit).
6. Each page of the essay must be numbered starting with page 1 of the essay, not the title page. The numbers must be centered at the bottom of each page.
7. Any quotations or copyrighted material used must be identified properly. For example, use of a specific writer's format (such as MLA) may be specified by the instructor overseeing the contest. Failure to identify non-original material will result in disqualification.
8. No references can be made in the essay that identifies the student, parents, school, community, sponsoring Optimist Club or District. (Deduction of 5 points or fraction based on degree of identification)

9. An essay may be written in either English, French, or Spanish if the language used is an official language of the country in which the sponsoring Club is located.
10. The entry must be stapled together in the upper left-hand corner. Covers of any type are not accepted.

Section IV – Judging and Timing

1. Judging will be completed by a panel of three qualified judges. At the Club level, judges may be Optimist Members, who are not acquainted with the contestants. At the District level, judges must be non-Optimists.
2. In an effort to conceal the identity of each contestant, each entry will be assigned a number by the Essay Contest Chair. The assigned number will be placed on the title page and page 1 of the essay. The title page will then be detached and retained by the Essay Contest Chair. The judges will be given the essay bearing only the assigned number.
3. Judges will not discuss or compare essays being judged.
4. Only judges can assign a penalty or award points.

Section V – Scoring

- Scoring procedures at all levels of the contest will be identical.
1. Material Organization – logical interpretation of the subject, adherence to topic: 40 points
 2. Vocabulary and Style – phrasing and continuity: 30 points
 3. Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling: 20 points
 4. Neatness: 5 points
 5. Adherence to Contest Rules – prepared in the proper format: 5 points

Section VI – Penalties

1. Failure to list official topic: 2 points
2. Failure to accurately identify total number of words: 5 points
3. Failure to type essay and double-space: 5 points
4. Failure to stay within the 700-800 word limit: 5 points for each 25 words or fraction based on degree

- of identification.
5. Self-identification: 5 points or fraction of based on degree of identification

Section VII - Awards

1. Club level – medallion
2. District level – plaque and a \$2,500 college scholarship for the first-place winner
 - A. Scholarships are funded by the Optimist International Foundation in the U.S. and Caribbean or the Canadian Childrens Foundation in Canada. Scholarships awarded are for use at a college, university or trade school only.
 - B. All scholarships will be payable to the educational institution of the recipient's choice, subject to the approval of Optimist International.
 - C. Scholarships must be used in a school located in the United States, Caribbean or Canada. All scholarships will be administered by Optimist International.
 - D. Winners of an Optimist International scholarship must claim their scholarship by the age of 25.

For more information contact:

Contact Person: J.P. Ryan, Mona Shores Optimist Club

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